the process of analysis in the USSR and in India. Results of the analysis are expected to yield information about the country's natural resources including its petroleum potential.

Indian Trade Fair in Moscow

*228. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trade Fair Authority of India is organising an Indian Trade Fair in Moscow from August 15, 1984 for a month;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and also the States which are participating in the Fair; and

(c) what is Government's expectation of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 410 companies from public and private sectors, including the Export Corporations of Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh are participating.

A statement showing the names of the participants is laid on the Table of the House (*See* Appendix CXXXI, Annexure-No. 34].

(c) The exhibition is expected to result in expanding and diversifying India's trade with USSR.

Japanese loan for thermal power plants in India

*229. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Japan has made an offer to step up loan for thermal power plants in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government of Japan have been traditionally extending finacial assistance to India for infrastructure projects in sectors such as fertilizers, telecommunications, power (both hydel and thermal), rail transport etc. The Government of Japan have so far extended financial assistance for the following thermal power projects:—

(1)	Chandrapur Thermal Power Project of the Electricity Board.	Assam State Yen 1·420 Billion (equivalent to Rs. 5·2 crores approximately).
(2)	Anpara Thermal Power Project of the Pradesh State Electricity Board.	Uttar Yen 24·1 Billion (equivalent to Rs. 88·2 crores approxmately).

2. While the loan agreement for Chandrapur Thermal Power Project has already been signed in 1981, the loan agreement for Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Project is under negotiation.

3. Loan assistance in respect of both projects will be repayable over a period of 30 years including a grace period of 10 years from the date of signing of the loan agreement. The loan carries an interest rate of 2.75 per cent per annum, according to the Inter-Governmental agreements on these projects.

Increase per capita emoluments of public sector employees

*230. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the per capita emoluments of public sector employees has risen by 196 per cent between 1971-72 and 1981-82, the price index had gone up only by 140 per cent:

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the compensation for the loss in emoluments due to erosion in the value of rupee with the rise in the cost of living in respect of some employees has been more than 100 per cent during the period;

(c) what are the details of such employees in respect of whom the compensation has been more than 100 per cent; and

(d) what are the reasons for allowing more than 100 per cent compensation to some of the employees when the real purchasing power of the purse of employees including the Central Government employees, is going down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) While the per capita emoluments of public sector employee increased by 173 per cent from 1971-72 to 1981-82 the average cost of living index has gone up by 132 per cent during the same period.

(b) and (c) The increase in the per capita emoluments and (d) as stated in (a), not only includes the regular adjustment of dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 1.30 per point rise in All India Consumer Price Index (Simla Series 1960-100) but also the increase in wages on account of the periodical bilateral wage agreements.

Selling of Gold ornaments of lesser purity

*231. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) wrether Government are aware that the ornaments which are being sold by the jewellers as of 22 carat gold are actually of lesser purity—generally of 18 to 20 carats and sometime even as less as 16 carat;

(b) whether selling of gold ornaments of lesser purity in the name of 22 carat can be termed as cheating; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such jewellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) According to section 30 of the Gold (Control) Act, 1968 every licensed dealer is required to stamp on every piece of article or ornament made, manufactured or prepared by him certifying the purity of gold except in the case of small size ornaments/articles where it is not possible to put such a stamp. The obligation under section 30 of the Act has been brought to the notice of licensed dealers. The Collectors of Central Excise who are implementing the various provisions of the Gold (Control) Act have been asked to keep a watch on the working of section 30 of the Act. Section 89 of the Act prescribes punishment of imprisonment and also fine for false stamping of purity on ornaments by the licensed dealers.

However, so far no complaints from customers for non-stamping or wrong stamping of purity of gold on ornaments have been reported by the Gold Control authorities. Appropriate action under the Act would be taken on receipt of complaints of non-stamping or wrong stamping

Violation of excise duty rules by M/s. ITC Limited

*232. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of raids conducted by the Central Excise authorities for violation of excise duty rules by M/s. India Tobacco Company Limited during the last three years;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the nature of irregularities detected during the raids; and

(d) what action Government have taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No raids have been conducted by the Central Excise authorities on M/s. India Tobacco Company Limited during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.